



Conceptual Recovery Objectives/Criteria for a revised Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan

developed by
Desert Tortoise Science Advisory
Committee



Recovery Goals/Objectives

- Recovery Goal
 - "Delist through recovery"
- Recovery Objectives
 - Provide parameters for the delisting goal
 - Include objective, measurable criteria



Recovery Criteria

- Targets by which progress toward meeting objectives can be measured
- Address representation, resiliency, redundancy
- Include management/elimination of threats
- Measurable and objective (not necessarily quantitative)



Obj. 1: Demography

- Maintain well distributed, self-sustaining populations into the future
 - Population growth rates
 - Density
 - Adult survival
 - Recruitment

Obj. 1: Demography Expectations/Considerations



- Stable or increasing trends
- 25 years
- Demographic study areas
 - Effective scale for measuring parameters
 - Representative



Obj. 2: Distribution

- Maintain a broad and stable-to-increasing distribution within each recovery unit
 - Public lands and private conservation lands within each recovery unit
 - Geographic subunits within each recovery unit

Obj. 2: Distribution Expectations/Considerations

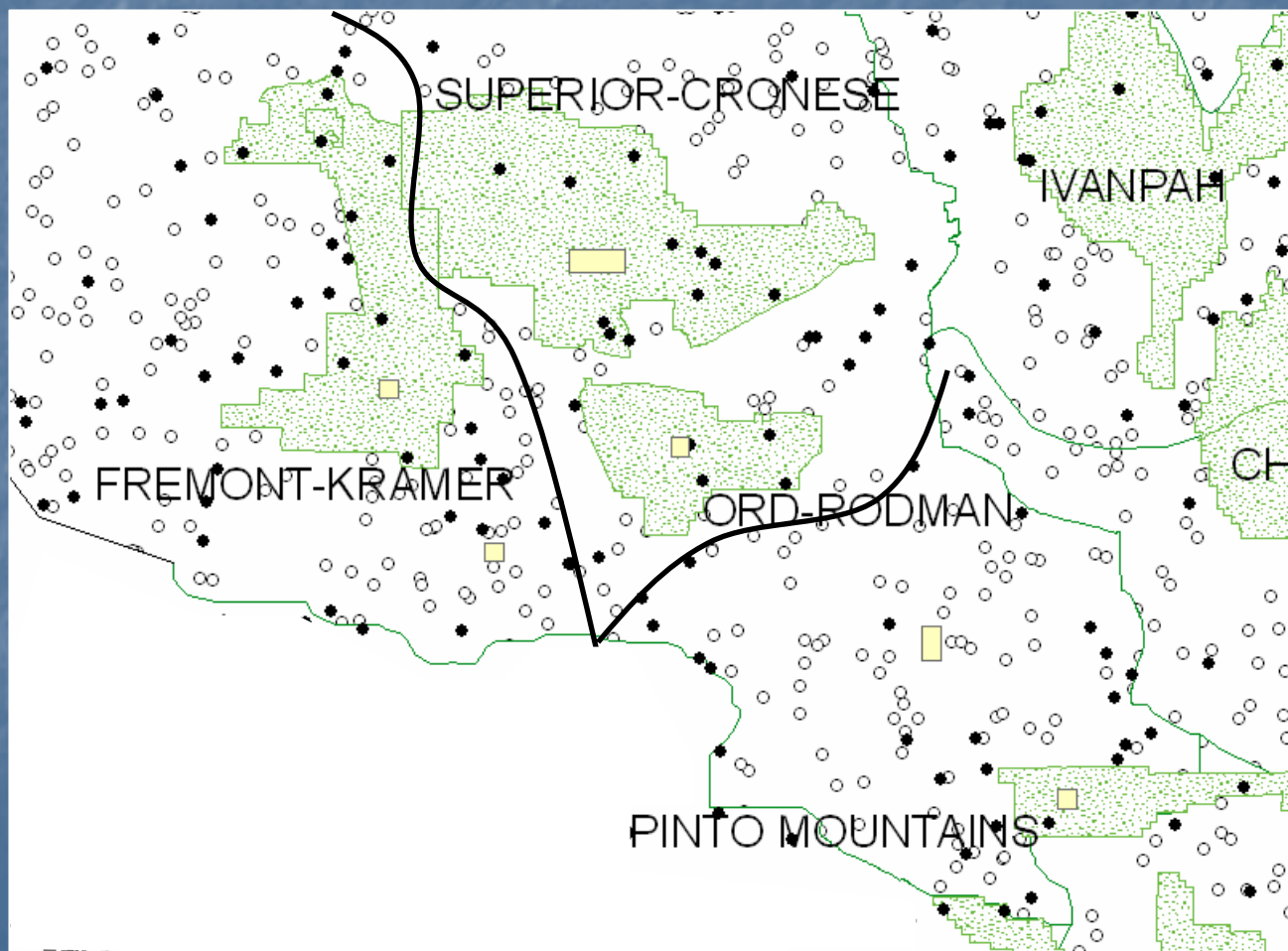


- Stable or increasing trends
- 25 years
- Subunits to ensure distribution is not lost completely in regions within recovery units
- Recovery units have not yet been evaluated



Obj. 2: Distribution

- "Occupancy"
- Requires baseline





Obj. 3: Habitat

- Ensure that habitat within each recovery unit is protected to allow long-term viability of desert tortoise populations
 - GIS model
 - Habitat-tracking system
 - Quantity and quality

Obj. 3: Habitat Expectations/Considerations



- ID minimum conditions for occupancy
- Requires baseline
- "Ledger" of habitat gains/losses
- Link habitat condition to management and occupancy



Obj. 4: Threats

- Threats are sufficiently mitigated to ensure the continued existence of the species
 - Management plans/cooperative agreements within each RU to ensure maintenance of 1-3.
 - explicit management actions that reflect risks
 - management strategies that ensure that the plan is evaluated and revised regularly
 - a system to track implementation
 - assurances that the plan will be implemented

Obj. 4: Threats

Expectations/Considerations



- Concept of conservation-reliant species
- Limitation of knowledge relative to specific demographic impacts
- Require research to link threats to demography
- Adaptive management



Next Steps

- DT SAC meeting on Sep 16-17
- Refine criteria
- Interactive meeting between DT SAC, MOG, stakeholders
- Provide context for rest of recovery plan